

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: OVIP, PL
SUBJECT: JAROSZEWICZ VISIT TO U.K.

REF: WARSAW 8839

1. ALTHOUGH WARSAW PRESS COMMENTARY HIGHLIGHTS JAROSZEWICZ'S VISIT AS THE FIRST BY A POLISH PREMIER TO THE U.K. SINCE WW II, THE VISIT SIGNIFICANCE TO THE POLES IS PROBABLY MORE ECONOMIC THAN POLITICAL.

2. THE PRESS OBSERVES THAT THE RELATIVE ROLE OF THE U.K. IN POLISH FOREIGN TRADE HAS DECLINED SINCE 1970, WHICH IS ATTRIBUTED TO ECONOMIC RECESSION IN GREAT BRITAIN AND U.K. BARRIERS AGAINST POLISH IMPORTS. CITING BRITISH PRESS SOURCES, THE POLISH MEDIA REPORTS THAT THE CALLAGHAN GOVERNMENT HOPES THE VISIT WILL LEAD TO A GROWTH IN TRADE BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES. REUTERS SOURCES ARE QUOTED AS REPORTING THAT A FIVE-YEAR AGREEMENT ON ECONOMIC COOPERATION WILL BE SIGNED AT THE VISIT'S CONCLUSION.

3. BRITISH EMBASSY OFFICERS HERE STILL HOPE THAT SOME COMMERCIAL CONTRACTS WILL BE SIGNED DURING THE VISIT, BUT ADMIT THAT FINAL AGREEMENTS HAD NOT BEEN REACHED BEFORE JAROSZEWICZ LEFT WARSAW. THEY PARTICULARLY WANTED TO LAND A CONTRACT TO CONSTRUCT SEVERAL HOTELS IN POLAND.

4. ON THE POLITICAL SIDE, POLISH COMMENTARY CITES THE EXCHANGE OF FOREIGN MINISTER VISITS IN 1974 AND 1975 AND THE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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1975 JOINT GOP-UK DECLARATION ON THE DEVELOPMENT OF FRIENDLY

RELATIONS, SIGNED BY CALLAGHAN AND FOREIGN MINISTER STEFAN OLSZOWSKI, AS IMPORTANT STEPS IN THE IMPROVEMENT OF BILATERAL TIES. DISCUSSIONS BETWEEN FORMER PRIME MINISTER WILSON AND FIRST SECRETARY GIEREK IN HELSINKI ARE ALSO MENTIONED AS HAVING CONTRIBUTED TO THIS IMPROVEMENT. POLISH-BRITISH RELATIONS ARE SAID TO BE FOUNDED ON JOINT EFFORTS TO FURTHER "MEANINGFUL AND ... PERMANENT DETENTE IN EUROPE AND THE WORLD."

5. BRITISH EMBASSY CONTACTS HERE DISCOUNT THE IMPORTANCE OF THE FIVE-YEAR ECONOMIC AGREEMENT, NOTING THEY ALREADY HAVE A 10-YEAR AGREEMENT ON THIS SUBJECT. COMMENT: MOST WESTERN EUROPEAN TRADING PARTNERS HAVE CONCLUDED BOTH FIVE AND TEN YEAR ECONOMIC AGREEMENTS WITH POLAND. EMBASSIES OF THESE COUNTRIES CLAIM THE AGREEMENTS ARE NOT BINDING AND HAVE VIRTUALLY NO PRACTICAL IMPACT ON TRADE RELATIONS. THE WESTERN DIPLOMATS SAY THEIR GOVERNMENTS ONLY SIGN THEM BECAUSE THE POLES PLACE A GREAT DEAL OF IMPORTANCE ON SUCH AGREEMENTS. END COMMENT. BROWN

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